

(c) and (d) Introduction of a train from Asansol/Raniganj/Durgapur to Assam has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

**Direct Rail Link between Bandel and Kalyani/Ranaghat/Krishnanagar**

4177. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the people of West Bengal consistently demanding for a direct rail-link between Bandel and Kalyani/Ranaghat/Krishnanagar by passing Naihati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a curved rail-link is existing short of Naihati which is presently submerged in soil;

(d) if so, whether any attempt has been made to make use of the curve;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps to be taken now to use the said curve to fulfil the demand of the people of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some demands have been received from the people of West Bengal.

(c) The curve line near Naihati is not in existence now.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

**Revenue Earned in North Bengal**

4178. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the revenue collected out of tourism in North Bengal during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any plan to improve tourism in North Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) According to the estimates worked out by the State Government, on the basis of average expenditure per tourist, the tourism earnings by the tourism industry in the six districts of North Bengal during the last three years were as given below :-

Year	Tourist Expenditure (Rs. Crores)
1994	51.98
1995	54.55
1996	55.63

(b) to (d) The infrastructure development of tourism in any place is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, financial assistance is provided by the Central Department of Tourism on the basis of specific proposals received from them, inter-se priorities and availability of resources. The projects assisted by the Central Department of Tourism for improving tourism in North Bengal during Eighth Plan period include the following :-

S. No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Augmentation of facilities at Mainak Tourist Lodge, Siliguri	29.00
2.	Tourist Lodge at Pashupati, Darjeeling	24.14
3.	Yatri Niwas at New Jalpaiguri	44.89
4.	Tourist Lodge at Darjeeling	25.00
5.	Tourist Lodge at Jalpaiguri	30.22

**Passenger Amenities at Nellore and Gudur Railway Stations**

4179. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that no foot over bridge, additional booking facilities, retiring rooms and other passenger amenities etc. have been provided at Nellore and Gudur Railway Stations of South Central Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also aware that no inspections by officers at higher level are conducted to improve the conditions;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to provide adequate passenger amenities at the said Railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) A sub-way at Nellore and a foot-over-bridge at Gudur connecting platforms are provided. Booking facilities, retiring rooms and other amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic are available at both the stations.

(c) to (e) Both the stations were inspected recently by senior Officers and as a result improvement to circulating area and surface of platform No 1 at Nellore has been completed recently. At Gudur works of VIP lounge and improvement to circulating area have been taken up.